

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 – 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A telephone terminal equipment interface circuit according to claim 2 comprising:

a diode bridge for rectifying line current supplied from a subscriber line and supplying the current to a call transmission and reception circuit;

a forward biasing circuit located on an output side of the diode bridge for supplying forward biased voltage to said diode bridge; and

a power supply circuit supplying power to said forward biasing circuit;

wherein said forward biasing circuit is connected in series in relation to said diode bridge,

wherein said forward biasing circuit causes said diode bridge to operate in an activated state by supplying said forward biased voltage to said diode bridge,

wherein current-voltage characteristics of said telephone terminal equipment interface circuit are such that both said current and said voltage increase in linear proportion from a starting point.

5. (Original): The telephone terminal equipment interface circuit according to claim 4 wherein said forward biasing circuit is a diode element biased in a forward direction.